

service and advantage of the public, it is not money, but its inconsiderate misappropriation, that ever need be objected to. Our prominent buildings, as works of art merely, should be made sources of more general interest and attraction. But we cannot have great works without corresponding means.

We cannot determine upon a well-considered plan, and having begun upon it, depart from the design, and yet attain the desired effect. If Sir Charles Barry is at length allowed to finish his great work in its full integrity, and with the same unstinting spirit in which it was originally planned and begun, we may yet hope to see a monument completed, to the country's glory, which shall endure as long as the constitution and fame of the empire itself shall last.

There appears to be one anomaly connected with the decoration of the Houses of Parliament, which seems to have escaped general notice. There is nothing whatever to represent or indicate our immense and wonderful and magnificent colonial empire and possessions. Surely this is either a mistake or an oversight.

WATCHMAN.

PICTURES BOUGHT BY THE ART-UNION OF LONDON.

The following are the principal pictures purchased since our last list:—

Father Thames, 150l. S.B.A.—J. Tennant
The Village Letter-writer, 100l. N.I.—J. G. Middleton
The Action in which Van Tromp was killed, 100l. R.A.—W. A. Kneil
Lake Lemna, Switzerland, 80l. R.A.—T. Denby
A Flower Girl of Seville, 80l. S.B.A.—F. Y. Harrison
Retiring from Church, 70l. N.I.—W. Underhill
Glen Nera, Limerick-shire, 60l. N.W.C.S.—W. Bennett
A quiet Valley Autumn, 100l. S.B.A.—H. J. Boddington
St. Bealade's Bay, Jersey, 60l. S.B.A.—A. Chat
Smugglers disposing of their Cargo, 80l. S.B.A.—T. Clater
The Bird's Nest in Daezoo, 60l. R.A.—W. F. Witherington, R.A.
Bollon Abbey, Yorkshire, 60l. R.A.—W. Harell
The old Boat-house at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 60l. N.I.—R. C. Williams
Noon, 40l. N.I.—G. A. Williams
Gipsies in a Barn, 50l. N.I.—W. Underhill
The Lake of Thun, 50l. W. C. S.—W. C. Smith
One for me, 40l. R.A.—W. H. Knight
The Spring, 40l. N.I.—E. C. Cobbett
Snowdon, 50l. W. C. S.—C. Copple Fielding
The frozen River, 40l. N.I.—A. Montague
Welsh Presents, 40l. N.I.—C. Duke
On the Conwy, 40l. N.I.—F. W. Hulme
Road to the Seater, 30l. 15s. S.B.A.—W. West
Don Quixote and Sancho, 40l. N.I.—J. Peel
On the Frith of Forth, 40l. R.A.—R. McLane
Scene near the Upper Falls, Lymouth, 30l. N.I.—H. B. Nibbs
Of Purbeck, river Thames, 25l. 6s. R.A.—R. H. Nibbs
Going to Market, 25l. R.A.—J. Stark
Demise, Lamartine's Stone-cutter of St. Point, 25l. N.I.—O. R. Campbell
Morning, 30l. N.I.—G. A. Williams
Waterfall at Braddat, Norway, 30l. S.B.A.—W. West
Summer Evening, Tramps descending to a Village, 35l. S.B.A.—J. W. Allen
Boats, 17l. 17s. N.W.C.S.—Mrs. Margotie
Cinderella, 30l. B.I.—W. S. Barton
The Close of a Saltry Day, 20l. R.A.—E. Williams, Jun.
Returning to Post, Evening, 30l. S.B.A.—J. W. Yarnold
Wargram, Berks, 20l. R.A.—A. Barland
Old Manor House at Salterns, Dorset, 20l. S.B.A.—A. Chint
The House, 31l. 10s. R.A.—H. P. Parker
An Autumn Evening in the Bay of Monaco, 25l. R.A.—H. J. Johnson
Youth and Age, 22l. 10s. S.B.A.—J. Noble
Calm, River Thames, early Morning, 25l. S.B.A.—R. H. Nibbs
The Stream in June, 20l. R.A.—J. Middleton
Isabella, 30l. S.B.A.—W. Gale
The Forester and his Favourite, 20l. R.A.—H. B. Willis
Dutch Ferry Boat, Morning, 20l. N.I.—A. Montague
The Neria, Limerick-shire, 17l. 17s. N.W.C.S.—W. Bennett
Casal, St. Frontaro, Venise, 20l. N.I.—W. Oliver
Clovelly, North Devon, 20l. R.A.—H. J. Johnson
View from Denison's hill, Surrey, 20l. B.I.—G. V. Cole, Jun.
River Scene, Showery Weather, 20l. N.I.—E. Williams, sen.
A Gleaner, 20l. S.B.A.—F. C. Underhill
A Peep at Bygone Times, 31l. R.A.—W. S. P. Henderson
On the banks of the Yare, 15l. R.A.—J. Stark
Distant View of Conway, 15l. W.C.S.—D. Cox, Jun.
Calest Pier, Fresh Breeze, 15l. N.W.C.S.—T. S. Roberts
On the Thames near Chertsey, 15l. S.B.A.—J. Tennant
On the Coast near Ostend, 15l. S.B.A.—J. Wilson
Shallow Stream, North Wales, 20l. R.A.—C. Marshall
Fruit from Nature, 31l. 10s. B.I.—Miss Stannard
Children Playing at Jink-stones, 15l. R.A.—A. Hunt
The Mill, Chiseldon, Devon, 45l. R.A.—J. Goodall
Gipsies, 15l. S.B.A.—G. Cole
Children at Play, 12l. 10s. N.I.—Miss Hewitt
On the Coast of Kent near Broadstairs, 15l. 15s. B.I.—J. Dugardie
Evening on the Common, 15l. N.I.—G. A. Williams
A Path by the Woodside, 15l. N.I.—T. J. Soper
The Path to Church, 15l. S.B.A.—H. J. Boddington
Dyke Road, Vale of Heath, 15l. R.A.—W. Williams
She dwelt among the untrodden Ways, &c. 15l. N.I.—F. Wyburd
Coast Scene, Linton, 15l. S.B.A.—W. West
Elgates Heath, 15l. N.I.—W. R. Bates
A Shepherd Boy, 15l. S.B.A.—J. J. Hill
Langdale Pines, 15l. 15s. W.C.S.—T. L. Bowthorn, Jun.
The Sunny Hour, 20l. 6s. N.W.C.S.—J. H. Mole
A Healthy Scene, Isle of Skye, 15l. W.C.S.—W. Turner
Lyaxmouth, North Devon, 25l. 15s. N.W.C.S.—S. Cook.

DESIGN OF A MONUMENT TO THE FOUNDER OF THE SMITHSONIAN (U.S.) INSTITUTE.

AN American paper gives an account of what it calls the "glorious design" for a monument to Smithsonian, by Horatio Stone. The design has been shown at Washington, and it is hoped that Congress will commission the artist to execute the work for the Smithsonian Institute. The subject is symbolical, somewhat high flown, and in some points scarcely in good taste. "Young Freedom" is the hero; and "the sage philanthropist"—Smithson, we imagine,—is his mentor. Franklin, however, gives him "the key of knowledge" and "the thunderbolt on the kite." In a group on the part of the pedestal fronting the statue Knowledge feeds the lamp of Young Freedom, who is garnished with his stars and stripes. Fulton holds a merited place in the sculptures, and Morse, we think, is rather too much made of: he is saying "in words on the scroll of the telegraphic machine, 'Let there be light.'" The wires ascend to the frieze, and being distributed above the dome of the Capitol are borne by angels around the circle of the world. The peculiar architecture of the four quarters of the globe occupy the frieze fronting the statue. Beneath the cornice, and over America, are the telegraphic angels, because "from thence first proceeded the 'still small voice' of the electric wires (?), and from the Capitol was the first telegraphic Word made manifest to the world!"

"An important member of the base-mouldings, upon which the whole work rests, is formed of the shields of all the states, bound together by a wreath of olive. When enlarged in marble, the heraldic figures and devices proper to the several states will be sculptured upon the shields. The statue of Smithsonian, surmounting the illustrative pedestal, is to be 9 feet in height. It is draped in the appropriate mantle of the Sage. In the left hand of the statue is placed a crystalline substance, to indicate the science to which he devoted his life. In the right hand is held a stylus disposed in readiness to record the result of investigation.

The cylindrical shaft of the pedestal, on which the principal illustrations are to be sculptured, furnishes a circumference-surface of 20 feet by 4½ in height: the figures on this surface are to be made in *alto-relief*, and 3 feet in height."

Miscellaneous.

SELF-ACTING TIME SIGNALS.—Some time ago we put a question suggestively to men of ingenuity as to the possibility of inventing a railway signal which, fixed on the line, and acted on by a passing train, as in the rise and subsequent fall of some prominent mark on a post or pole, and by a light to rise and fall by night, would show to subsequent trains the length of time, within a quarter of an hour or so, which had transpired since the train setting the signal in action had passed. Such a signal as we then pointed out would be especially useful to trains on entering long tunnels, in which serious accidents have happened from want of it. In fogs, too, and in curves and low levels or hollows by day, as well as by night under all circumstances, such signals would be invaluable. An invention has lately come under our notice, which might, perhaps, be adapted to the self-acting mechanism required and still to be invented. "The machine," it is said "is of simple construction, consisting merely of a pole 16 feet high, upon which slides up and down a copper ball, of 18 inches in diameter. This ball is wound up to the top of the pole by clockwork directly a train has passed; ["trouble attending the manipulation" is alluded to, so that it is unfortunately not self-acting, or put in trim by the train itself] and as it occupies exactly ten minutes in its descent, the driver of the following engine can discern at a glance how long a time [within ten minutes] has elapsed since the last train passed, and by which, at one view, he is made acquainted with the distance the next train before him has gone on, and instructing him, the while,

to shut off his steam, or proceed at a more rapid rate. In the day-time the ball itself is sufficiently conspicuous, but in the night-time, or foggy weather, top and bottom lamps are employed, with a different colour to the one in the ball; thus making it an unmistakable night signal. The trouble of attending to the manipulation of the machine itself is so slight as scarcely to be worthy of notice. The uses of this invention are so multifarious and self-evident, that it would be tedious to describe them, on the one hand, and needless on the other." The inventor is a Mr. Tidmarsh, who was awarded a silver medal by the Scottish Society of Arts as a token of their appreciation of its ingenuity.

THE BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF ORNAMENTAL ART.—The annual meeting of the donors and subscribers to the Society of Arts and Government School of Design at Birmingham was held on Tuesday in last week at the rooms of the institution, in New-street. In the absence of the president (the Earl of Stamford) the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke occupied the chair. The treasurer read an abstract of the accounts, which showed the entire receipts for the year ending 31st May (including a balance in hand from the previous twelve months of 101l. 3s. 4d.) to have been 1,284l. 5s. 6d. of which sum 287l. 10s. were derived from subscriptions and donations, and 156l. 10s. 6d. from students' fees. The government contribution to this school is 600l. a year. In the face of these facts it is astonishing to find one of the principal speakers at the meeting, without one word urging the manufacturing and other able inhabitants of Birmingham to increase their subscriptions, nevertheless hoping that Government would "see the propriety" of increasing their grant, which he (the speaker) thought ought to be doubled! Not one of those who addressed the meeting, if correctly reported in the local papers, could "see the propriety" of remonstrating with their townsmen for not at least equalling the generosity of the Government towards them and their interests in the charitable support of their own school of art. The modelling class of this school is considered to present its most complete feature as a whole, that class having continued its operations without interruption during the recent changes.

ENCLOSURE OF LAND FROM THE SEA IN THE NETHERLANDS.—The first act of the lands conceded to the Netherlands Land Enclosure Company by the Government of Holland was turned by Captain Pelly, on Thursday in week before last, at Hanswerk, Zealand, Holland, in the presence of a large concourse of the population. In the Scheldt, between Bergen-op-Zoom and Antwerp, there exist large tracts of land covered at high water by the sea, and at low water presenting a varying surface of several feet in depth of the richest alluvial soil, ever on the increase. To redeem and dispose of this land is the object of the company named, which is composed of practical men on both sides of the Channel, with Sir John Rennie as engineer-in-chief. The necessary powers have been granted for ninety-nine years from last August, under which the company may recover and enclose land to the extent of 35,000 acres. The reclamation will cost 20l. per acre they say, and the land reclaimed will be worth from 60l. to 70l. per acre.

GAS.—The Coventry Gas Company have announced a reduction on 1st July, to prices graduating from 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. per 1,000 feet.—An effort is being made to establish a new Gas Company at Yarmouth, for the purpose of supplying Gorleston and Southtown with gas. At same time the old company have determined on reducing the price of gas, after Michaelmas quarter, from 5s. 6d. per 1,000 feet to 5s.—The increasing prosperity of the Kelso Gas Company, according to the local *Chronicle*, is so great as to require an extension of accommodation at the works to meet the extending consumption. A dividend of 10 per cent has just been declared.—The Suranmer Gas Company have reduced the price of gas to 8s. a thousand cubic feet.